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Lucy B. Stephens,
1300 Clay St.,
Lynchburg, Va.

NOVEMBER LESSON SHEET

PART I

NOVEMBER, 1919

To Our Friends of the
Stead Center Oriental Class:

Dear Friends:

There is nothing the spirit-world can not do for you, if you will supply the conditions.

To those of the earth-world, this may seem to place an impassable barrier in their paths.

What are these conditions that you must furnish? They are not answered by faith alone, because faith must be supported by activity, by effort. They are not answered by faith plus effort, unsupported, because faith may be great and effort may be misdirected.

You plant a bulb, and see that soil and temperature conditions are favorable for the growing of that particular kind of plant. In time, the bulb begins to awaken. The plant grows from a tender shoot, and becomes larger and stronger. After a time, buds appear, and later these buds blossom into beautiful flowers, having a certain definite texture and color to their petals.

That plant has life and beauty in harmony with the law governing it.

Let that law be transgressed and the plant either does not grow at all, or grows improperly.

Sunflowers and orchids are both plants, but the law that governs the growing of one differs from the expression of law governing the growing of the other.

The man skilled in knowledge of plant-life, learns the conditions that affect the successful growing of different flowers. Understanding the law, he complies with that law.

This, you say, you can comprehend. You may add that while the life of the plant, like your own soul, came from God, the plant does not think. It obeys blindly. Unless man's intelligence controlled the cultivation of that plant, it would not grow to as wonderful beauty. This is true, but unless that bulb had within it the right conditions, man's care would avail nothing.

Within you, God placed life -- intelligence, memory. He made you an independent being, and yet, in your independence, you still are answerable to God's Law, because that Law came into being in order to make individual life possible. Remove that Law and the universe itself would fade away.

The conditions to which we refer, therefore, are conditions that are brought about through your own harmony with God's Law. The more you learn, the easier it is to supply the proper conditions.

Let us consider the things of God's Creation -- the greatest things and the smallest things, and out of that contemplation draw a Lesson that may improve our understanding.

Even the smallest thing in existence, the ion, is always working. It never ceases its motions. By multiplying the smallest thing, we have our various materials and our ethereal particles. The sun, the planets, all the suns in the universe, are but multiplications of ions.

Consider, then, the ceaseless activity of these bodies, small and great. None ever pauses. Each is obedient at all times to the expressions of God's Law that govern it. Why should you, a reflection of the Divine Life, buy success and progress at small cost?

If advancement, effort, sincerity, hope, struggle did not prove necessary in progress, then all persons would attain the highest glories instantly. God makes the tiny seed earn its way. He compels the greatest sun to earn its way. It is in this nature that you and all of God's creatures must have being. How could you live in a condition of essential effort and, at the same time, escape the necessity of effort?

Effort alone is of limited value. Man often expends energy of body and mind to attain fruitless results. Only when knowledge steps in, can effort achieve progress.

You say, "I have seen phenomenal success, almost accidental success. I have known of men who wagered their all on the market and reaped fortunes in return."

That much of the story you have seen. If they had earned that right to success at some former period, it came to them as a reward -- as payment that was due them. If they had not earned the right to such material success, then in time they must pay for it in full measure.

Perhaps you complain thus: "Not knowing the past, I can not understand how much I have earned and how great my reward is to be."

That is true, but remember that no individual in all of God's creation is done with earning. None has ever earned all there is to earn. Throughout eternity, there are new achievements to beckon us on.

Then what are the conditions you must supply in order to succeed?

We have shown you that faith is necessary. Each doubt directed to God and the spirit-world is closing the door. Faith is an essential always, and so is work, and so is profiting by past errors. These things are all necessary, but above and beyond them all, is another still greater requirement: Constancy.

The earth-planet never fails to revolve with regularity, and there is sunrise each morning, just as there has been for ages and as there will be for ages to come.

The heavenly bodies swing systematically through the depths of space. Man has discerned but little of their method, but in time he will understand that system better.

In the ion, in the atom, in the molecule, in the cell, in the seed, the world, the sun, the universe in its greatness and in its most finite divisions, there is Constancy always.

And the souls of God's Children, like the particles, and masses of God's nature, must obey the Law of Endless Progression. All things must have Constancy if they are to experience progress.

Success is not a fixed condition. The wealthiest man must pass into spirit. The mightiest city must crumble into dust and be lost in the mold of nature's endless changes. Fame is as fleeting as the most fleecy cloud. All things change, because in progress there can be no fixed condition.

Without this expression of Law that manifests in its ceaseless changes, the poor always would be doomed to poverty, and the lowly always would be downtrodden.

In these ceaseless changes, there are law and order. There is system. The ion and the mightiest star earn their right to evolve. So also must it be with souls.

Out of despair, new hope arises. Out of sorrow comes joy. Out of decay comes life, and out of adversity success proceeds.

As you learn how to administer your possessions properly, be they of the mind or of the purse, you attract the help which the spirit-world is ready at all times to give you.

We, also, must progress as we provide the conditions of progress.

Helping you as you comply with the conditions that harmonize with God's Law, we also gain. To bring you assistance which you have not earned, is out of the question. It is contrary to Law.

Today, you stamp as impossible that which you will accept tomorrow. You have learned something of value. What has taken place to cause you to alter your opinion? You have learned. You have progressed.

You must learn on your own account always. We do not do your thinking for you. We impress you, we set your mind operating along the right channel, as you furnish the conditions. The thought is yours; the assistance is ours. That which your mind is incapable of understanding, we can not put into it.

Instead of being a mere automaton, a chessman, a pawn, moved as we will, you are a dynamic individual, moving only as you learn to move. Provide the conditions through your own learning and your faith and your effort and we can assist you.

If several men push on a wagon that a horse can not start, that wagon will move, and once in motion, the horse can keep it going. It matters not to the men who help what the nature of the load may be. They help. So also we help if you open the way.

Asking us to assist -- or praying to God for assistance -- will aid in providing the conditions. But prayer without effort is unavailing, and prayer for the wrong thing is unavailing. You may wish to ignite a fluid which you believe to be gasoline. If it is water, it will not ignite. Hence, faith may run contrary to natural law. You must have faith in and work in harmony with that which is not contrary to God's Law, and the cumulative result of your understanding enables you to so guide your efforts that they are reasonable.

However, today's honest effort may bring scant success or no success. Constancy of effort, faith and study are imperative. Eliminate constancy and the other elements of your efforts are wanting. They are like a machine minus a bearing, or a cog-wheel minus some of its teeth.

You may say, "For years I have been faithful in my efforts, but I find no reward."

Have you learned your mistakes during those passing years? Are you still doing things in the same old way? Are you forcing money and easy times on persons who continue to whine and ask for more? Are you perpetuating some wrong act or wrong thought? Are you still a slave to some ancient habit?

It is one of man's most common errors to vote himself compliments and rewards, just as it is one of man's chief mistakes to complain. These are harmful conditions. They are insulation that bars all assistance from spirit.

How often have you complained that the work you are obliged to do is disagreeable to you? There is happiness in work well done and there is progress in purposeful effort. There is nothing but a standstill in effortless complaint.

Thus you may realize that mortals rarely supply the conditions that attract help. Likewise they mistake the nature of the assistance the spirit-world can bring them. We can not do your work for you. At best, we can help put you in touch with the opportunities that your own efforts make possible.

If your earth-life measured the limitations, then many of the hardships of earth might be called unjust. Remembering that your earth tenure of life is but a small portion of life and that its purpose is to give you a type of experience you could not gain in spirit, you will see in your failures many much-needed lessons.

This does not mean that you should not succeed on earth. It does not mean that you should sink back into a condition of resignation. It does mean that you should try, and keep on trying, that you should work

and endeavor to learn, that you should master your harmful habits of thought and of body.

The spirit-world expects you to do your best, to admit your mistakes and to keep on trying -- cheerfully -- even when you find small reason to be cheerful.

There is a way out of all error. There is a way out of all physical disability, even though that way be through death's portals. But error may be overcome wholly, or to a considerable degree, in the flesh. Do not think that because you must wait until you are in spirit before a crippled body may be whole again, you must wait until you are in spirit before all error is corrected and all damage repaired.

Your physical body may be an impediment under certain conditions, but that which is of your mind or your morals is of your spirit, and you are a spirit now as much as you ever will be.

Even your body must functionate according to Law. It must have constancy in waste and repair, in the performance of its functions. Let there be a departure from the normal in functioning and there is sickness. Let the functions cease and the change called death will result.

This being true of an instrument of your soul, does it not prove that your soul, your real self, must observe similar conditions?

Let the law of gravity cease to operate just one second and that would prove that this law is not constant. If natural law could cease over the briefest period, it would be a rule and not a law. More than that, if natural law could cease to operate, it would mean chaos.

Observing this universal, this God-given, demand of constancy, do you think that you can become an exception to it without some degree of suffering?

All nature obeys God's Law. Not one moment is there recession from that obedience. But man, feeling apart from nature, takes liberties. He takes chances with his thought and his deeds. Too often, man fancies himself superior to Law -- God's Law.

It should be easier to live in harmony with God's Law than to run contrary to it. In spirit, it is easier. Why should it not be so on earth?

The conditions we need in order to help you are natural conditions. Those which you bring to us ordinarily are not natural; they are contrary to natural..

To you always belongs the decision. Your happiness, your progress, are for you to attract. Viewing Life as we do view it, this should be the easiest of all lessons for you to learn: The more nearly you live in harmony with God's Law, the happier and more successful you must be. Success is not money alone, or position alone, but the working out of your mission. Seek that mission and it will be revealed to you.

Just as we can not give you the conditions necessary for your success and happiness, so is your life your own. The rewards of living that life well, are your rewards. Yours are the gains. If you will not open the way for us to help you, what right have you to complain if you are not helped? It is not our fault. You must learn to not blame your shortcomings, your failures, your disappointments on any one or anything else.

Understanding God's Law better than you understand it, we are glad to help to the fullest measure of the conditions which you supply. In this manner, we are pleased to use our better knowledge and better facilities for God's children. Without those conditions, we are unable to assist.

Therefore, in the degree in which you aspire to be helped, supply the conditions and you will be helped.

THE TEACHERS.

The Wm. T. Stead Memorial Center,
533 Grant Place, Chicago, Illinois.

November Lesson Sheet

PARTS I and II

NOVEMBER, 1919

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Dear Fellow Class Members:

This month's Lesson marks the eighth month these Oriental Lessons have been issued. We are two-thirds of the way along the first year's course. During these months some of our class-members have passed into spirit. Into the lives of others, bereavements have come. Day by day, we are reminded that the earth-expression of life is but a breath in the endless reaches of Eternity.

And so the changes come, the changes that often seem so trivial but which prove momentous to us as their purposes are revealed.

To God, all time is one. To us, the time that has sped can not be recalled. Today is a treasure we should not neglect, and as students we are trying to meet today's problems and learn today's lessons.

I was reading the other evening about recent astronomical discoveries. In the large observatories where the astronomers study the visible material universe by means of photographs, distant suns have been located, the light of which is 200,000 years in reaching the earth! From others the light is 1,000,000 years reaching us!

Light travels 186,300 miles a second. Let us work it out so that we may see the figures, even though we may not comprehend them: In one minute light travels 11,178,000 miles. The light from our sun, which has a mean distance of about 95,000,000 miles from the earth, reaches us in less than $8\frac{1}{2}$ minutes! If the fires of the sun were extinguished suddenly, $8\frac{1}{2}$ minutes later the earth would be dark and begin to freeze.

In one hour, light travels 670,680,000 miles. In 24 hours, it travels 16,096,320,000 miles. In $365\frac{1}{4}$ days, light will travel 5,879,180,880,000 miles. Now, let us pause for breath! That—if my multiplication is correct—is one "light year." Let us multiply that sum by 200,000. We have 1,175,836,176,000,000,000 statute miles, the distance traveled by light in 200,000 earth years! I don't know what the figures are called when they get that high. But let us put it this way: One trillion, one hundred and seventy-five billion, eight hundred and thirty-six million, one hundred and seventy-six thousand TIMES one million miles!

If we could travel 1,000,000 miles a day (forty times the speed of the earth's revolution on its axis), we would have to travel for 1,175,836,176,000 days, or 3,219,352,373 years to reach that distant star!

We can read the figures, but when we look back to the dim days of childhood, or think of the distance across America, we can not grasp the meaning of these limitless time and space measurements.

And yet, that distant star is no farther removed from God than our own globe. Perhaps there are suns a million "light-years" farther away than those we call the farthest!

If man could perfect a telescope large and powerful enough, then in viewing the image he would see what had taken place in those distant suns two hundred thousand years ago. He does see what occurred in the process of formation of those great stars, many of which are much larger than our own sun.

And so, in spirit, each of us may look back through the memories of the past and see what we did. We shall learn how well we met our duties!

In this mighty universe, where the mustard-seed is no more neglected or forgotten than the greatest star, we are not overlooked.

But now I shall pause to permit our Pastor and Medium, Mrs. Cook, to deliver a few messages to class-members, from loved ones in spirit.

Mr. I. M., Linder Ave., Chicago: Your dear mother and sister come here and say, "We are so glad and so happy for your great and glorious progress in this truth. When we think back to our life in the old country and how we did not understand the blessings that we now have, we are more than

pleased to think we can communicate with you in this way. We are all progressing and you are, too. Remember that nothing is impossible to God and spirit. We try, in our way, to do our part as you yourself are worthy of these great blessings. Tell your dear wife that her dear father is progressing beautifully for the short time he has been in spirit. We are glad that your little son so beautifully overcame his sickness. I know you realize that we helped him. We send you this message with the greatest blessing."

Mrs. Ida B., Crystal St., Chicago: Dear Mother: I hope you will notice this little message in these lessons. I am so anxious that you realize how I have helped you and how I have tried to find a new home for you. I am very glad for the change that you have made. I wish I could impress everybody in this earth-plane, who belongs to us or who belongs in our family, that to be honorable and right is the only way to live. In our sphere in spirit we know of nothing else but honor and harmony and love for one another. If our friends in the earth-plane would learn that lesson, how much happier you would all be. Like attracts like and as you all strive to live right and do just what is right, you will find that the great compensation will come through the natural law. I send you this message with greatest love and affection.—Clara B.

Mrs. W. H. P., New York City: My dear sweet mother: How happy I am to think that I can get so close to you! I believe, dear, the time is coming when dear father and dear grandma will understand this great, wonderful, comforting truth. I am working with all of my friends. I am helping Ralph, too, to understand this truth. We all send our greetings. Many friends are with me here, mother, and they want to be remembered. I know you realize who they all are. I feel that I am so close to you and I want to say to you, mother dear, I liked that little evening gown that you got. I thought you looked so sweet in it. Of course, mother, you look sweet in everything. To think that I had to come to the spirit-world just to bring you back this glorious truth. I already feel more than repaid for my passing. I feel overjoyed. I believe that I now can see the great purpose in coming to this wonderful sphere. At least I know I am beginning to see God's great love and I am one of His great messengers. I hope that you at all times feel my presence, and it is through God's love and law that I come to you daily. With greatest affection and with all my love, I send this message to you, mother dear.—Helen.

Mrs. Alma I., Oshkosh, Wis.: Hello Mumsie: Please try hard to sit for me every day, dear. The kitchen is all right, mumsie, don't worry. I know you feel my presence every day and while you often think, "Why should my only child be taken to the spirit-world," it is all right, because that is God's way and His way is never wrong. I want you to live as close to God as you can, for by living close to Him, through these beautiful studies, you are close to me, and by being close to me you are close to God, because I am close to God. I send loving greetings to dad because he always loves to hear from the kid and the kid loves him, too. I know dad tries in his way to do the best he can. I come home every day and I am so happy. I was with you on your birthday and wish you many happy returns of the day. I hope God will bless you with many useful years on this earth-plane. In studying this great truth you will be happy, and I will be happy too. With great blessings, I am your loving boy, Lester.

Mrs. Alice C., Edwardsburg, Mich.: I hope, mother, that you realize our presence every day. We come and bring all the rest. Papa feels just as we all do, that you should not spend your winter in this climate. We feel you ought to go away just as we have guided you to do in the past, to a little different climate. We feel, though, that you should be greatly encouraged with the healing and guidance that we have been able to bring to you in the last six months. We are greatly encouraged because you are so much better. We all send our message with deepest love to you, mother.—Sweetie and Henry.

Mr. and Mrs. F. S. C., B. Ave., Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Dear mother and dad: I know there are times when you recognize my presence. I want dear mother to realize that she is so much better in every way. We feel the forces are helping her and this development is strengthening her. We are all doing what we can to prove our presence near you, and I believe there are times when you both feel my gentle touch. From mother comes the message, "We all feel from the spirit side of life that you have done all things the right way. To you it sometimes seems a little cloudy. You do not know whether things are right or wrong. That is your human vision, but thank God for these great studies that you and I have together and that you are trying to seek these truths through the higher spheres. We will all be happier when God's children in this earth-plane will understand a little clearer the guidance that we, as God's messengers, give you. When people understand that God has chosen your own loved ones as messengers to guide and help you in your struggles, we will feel much happier. We are always happy to do our duty, for when we do that, it is all out of love that it is done."—Mother and Sonny.

Mr. F. M. S., Nashville, Tenn.: My darling boy: I know you realize each time that you study your dear lessons, that I am with you. You seem to understand that your guides are with you and it makes us very happy. The development and unfoldment that comes to you each day, makes us all very happy, because we know that you are seeking in the right way and you are on the right pathway to better things. Do not in any way feel discouraged with these material misunderstandings, that at present exist around and about you. Right is right, and from the spirit-world we come only in that just, loving way. All we want is the right thing and it is going to come. Be brave. Everything has its season. The fruit can not be enjoyed unless it is ripe. It will soon be ripened for you to enjoy, but mortals do not always understand why they need to go through a great development—perhaps through a great cloud or a storm. Every cloud has a silver lining, and that lining will soon shine for you, my dear. Don't worry.—Mother.

Mrs. R. M. J., Garfield Ave., Chicago: Dear Mamma: I thought I would come through our dear lessons and give you a sweet message and tell you how happy I am to think that I find my avenue so broad and bright. When I look around me and see the people in the earth-plane who never can get any message from their loved ones simply because they can not believe it, I feel sad. They do not seem to understand that God's love does not separate. I want to come through this little message-bearer and tell you of my great happiness and joy to think I can reach you, mother dear. Tell dear papa not to be discouraged. He can not realize how much help I am to him now, but there is a time coming when he will know. I am very happy for the help I can bring to you both.—Your loving daughter, Ellen.

Mr. H. H. W., Montrose Ave., Chicago: My darling husband: Do you know, dear, that I see a little strength has come to your heart? I believe that through the great understanding of God's law and through the great love of the Creator and the strength He gives me to bring to you the spiritual understanding, I can see a great light shining over you now. I am very happy for that. I can see it, of course, a little better than you can, and when I stop to realize that God never separates such a love as ours, I can not help but be happy. You may say, "How can she be happy without being with me?" I am happy because I am never away from you. I am closer to you now than I ever could be in the material. God has a great purpose in all He does and none of us must judge, but we must, through our great development and our great advancement in His light and in His love, learn to be strengthened.—Your loving wife, Nellie.

Mr. R. C. Y., Connors Ave., Detroit, Mich.: Your father and mother wish to greet you through these lessons and to thank you for your interest in these beautiful studies. "We are with you very, very often and we believe that you realize it. We hope that through your great development and understanding of spiritual law, you can and will be strengthened as we wish you to be. It will all come in time. Don't let any material misunderstandings disturb your development. God is all love. We are the messengers and we are all happy in our love for you to guide you the right way.—Your loving parents and friends.

Mr. E. E. A., Brazil, Ind.: My dear boy: I hope you realize my presence and I hope you realize the guidance I bring to you each day. No matter how heavy the clouds seem in a material way, remember that the spiritual strength and the foundation of life that you are trying to develop through a spiritual understanding, is the thing that brings great blessings. My dear boy, I want you always to understand that your material success comes through God's love and law. Keep close to God and your loved ones, and all that belongs to you of material success will come. I am so happy over the studies you are taking up. I have been able to impress you to take them up and I am very happy to think that I could. I hope you realize my loving presence every minute of the day. Other loved ones send greetings to you, my boy.—Your loving mother.

Mr. Jas. N. S., Boston, Mass.: My dear husband and companion: Remember that distance and time mean nothing to us in spirit. Although according to the mortal world I have been in spirit many years, it seems to me like yesterday, for whether you understand it or not, I am always with you to do what I can. It is my great progress to guide the ones that I love. I am very happy in my work in spirit and I know that what God has joined has always been and always shall be. In that beautiful thought and knowledge I am very happy. Try and go on with your great development and study. It makes us all so happy. I try every day to gain enough strength that you might understand my presence, dear.—Your loving wife.

Mr. R. C. F., Cherokee, Kans.: Dear mother and dad: How happy I am to send you the message that in the spirit-world there is no war, but just the same I am glad I did my best to serve my country. I am very happy in my spiritual unfoldment and I am daily trying to teach it to you all. I am with you so very much and we are all with you from the spirit-world. Sister and I come so very often and we are very happy. I want you to know

that I am glad to think you are trying to develop and learn more about God's great, wonderful law. Words can not express my joy. I know you feel my presence at times and I know that I am able to come closer. I know you will see me in time. We realize that the human vision is sometimes not as clear as we would like it to be, but dad, there is a purpose that perhaps God has in that, for could you look into our spiritual condition and see it as I see it, you would not want to fulfill your earthly mission. Life in spirit is so beautiful and so wonderful that I am sure you would want to come right here yourself, but you can not come until God calls, because you have a work to do and there is a great purpose in your being in this earth-plane. But remember, there is no separation and when you are strengthened with that knowledge, you can well go on with your mission on earth until God calls each one to a larger understanding and a clearer vision, where there will be no more misunderstanding and wondering.—From your loving daughter and soldier boy.

The only way we can attract the greatest help from life's spirit-side is to keep IN TUNE with God's Law. This is easy to say, but more difficult to do! TRYING is possible. Why not make the attempt? When we fall into the childish habit of thinking that God created His universe for our express benefit, we become sad. The reason we become sad is because we are wrong. Our egotistical thoughts are at odds with Law.

You know children who say frequently, "Now, look at me!" when they do not put on a show worth looking at. That is baby egotism. Also it is budding egotism. Are these children as much to blame as grown-ups who are ever seeking the spot-light of approval?

Are you wonderful in your own vision? If you think you are, look out for a bump. Are you so much different from other mortals, from all other human beings? If you think you are, beware, because your pride will suffer a set-back!

If you are wealthy, is not your wealth a test that is more rigid than the test of poverty? If you are poor, is not God placing you where you must develop your resourcefulness? If you are ill, is it not your ignorance or carelessness?

It has become a habit of thought with many mortals to believe that there is nothing they can not do if they set their minds to it. Optimism is very splendid, but one who contemplates the majesty of the Great Plan must feel that, with optimism, there should be the seasoning of a little humility.

Contemplation of the universe should not cause us to abase ourselves and say, "What's the use?" If we were of no use, we would not be placed here. A Plan so comprehensive, so vast as that which makes Creation possible, is

not going to neglect any detail, and each of us is a detail of the Great Plan.

Marvelous as the great works may be, the mighty stars still depend upon the smallest particles. The Plan is immeasurable in magnitude and it is beyond our finite comprehension in detail. While we mortals are but pin-points compared with the universe, we are pretty nearly universes compared with electrons and atoms.

Although no mortal should become so important as to feel that the entire Plan rests on his shoulders, every mortal should feel that he fits in with the Plan.

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In presenting this month's messages to members of the class, I am pleased to state that Mrs. Cook expects to make the Message Department permanent. Shortly, we shall prepare some clear instructions on the questions to be asked and the conditions essential to the receipt of messages. We know that our friends do their best, but if we can assist them, we feel that it is our duty to do so.

Unfortunately, many persons feel bad if the spirit-world does not endorse their opinions. When we assume that attitude, it is equivalent to saying, "This must be my experience. It is what I wish." Alas, for our restricted vision! We sometimes wish that which is worst for us. But we are students, and the business of the student is to learn. If Mrs. Cook and I can help you by passing along to you the instructions we receive, we are glad to do so. Likely this information about securing readings by mail or communications in the seance-room (any seance-room), will be compiled in booklet form.

Our Class is growing and our list of friends is growing. You can see that the time must come (before long, I may add) when Mrs. Cook must place limitations upon her Message Department. Members of the Class then will have first call, and before long, the exclusive right to these messages by mail.

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For the benefit of those who are doing their studying in groups, there follow the subject-divisions for the next four weeks. If you are doing your studying alone, assign yourself some of these subjects:

For the first week following the receipt of these Lessons:

1. Can a request to your guides be unknown to God?
2. What obligations does a prayer place on you?

3. What does a desire attract?
4. When you pray, should you cease personal efforts?
5. What kind of prayers to God can do you more harm than good?
6. Should a promise to God be regarded more lightly than a business debt?
7. Name certain conditions under which you can not expect spirit assistance.
8. Do you think that God will give another chance to anyone who has refused to see his mistakes?
9. How will doubt obstruct assistance from the spirit-world?
10. Is an open deed more forceful than a secret thought?

Subjects for the second week:

11. Could we gain development if our prayers were answered without our effort?
12. How does adversity help us to learn through analysis?
13. If God gave us brains to use, why is it wrong to use them in evil thoughts?
14. If God must have made all poison possible, why should we shun poison?
15. Would you expect to find poison in spirit?
16. Why should those in spirit claim to be happy when we know they were sad on earth?
17. What relationship does happiness bear to knowledge?
18. As we gain in knowledge, could we care to do wrong?
19. Just what is evil?
20. What is goodness?

Subjects for the third week:

21. Why should there be so many occupations on earth that we regard as useless?
 22. What relations do different occupations bear to development?
 23. Why is it wrong to not face a duty?
 24. If war is wrong, why should it be noble to die in battle for one's country?
 25. How can the world, as a whole, earn its way in progression?
 26. What does hatred do to the one who hates?
 27. How does false judgment of others react upon us?
 28. Why can not affection be forced on one?
 29. Should we try to keep on loving those who do not love us?
 30. Name some trusts placed upon us.
- Subjects for the fourth week:

31. Can there be bondage in anything that is demanded of us in experience?

32. Why should God's Law demand that we earn our way?

33. Define the relationship between a seance-room test and doubt of the spirit-world in our every-day lives.

34. Would a highly developed spirit, incarnate, have an easy or hard earth-life?

35. What usually happens to a person's faith when he seeks to test the spirit-world with falsehoods?

36. What standing would a lie have in spirit?

37. What difference is there between demands and aspirations?

38. What is the spirit idea of optimism?

39. Name some of the advantages of meditation.

40. What kind of concentration helps one most?

In preparing your answers, either for discussion in your class, if you belong to one, or for your own study, try to prepare answers that are not restricted to "yes" and "no." The answers are NOT to be mailed to us.

* * * *

We have been fortunate in securing some more light aluminum and shall be in position to deliver our standard three-section trumpets, postpaid, for \$3.00.

We are asked frequently if we can secure the voices by possessing and using a trumpet. Only through systematic development can any person learn his or her psychic gifts.

Many persons sit either in the light or the dark, holding the small end of the trumpet to whichever ear one would use most (and that is usually revealed by the way you use the telephone receiver), and in time hear the voices. In the darkness, we are more passive than we are in the light. Usually, results are secured more quickly in the dark than in the light.

Even though one may never develop the voices, the use of a trumpet helps psychic unfoldment. It accustoms a person to get into the right condition.

In using a trumpet as suggested above, do not concentrate upon any particular loved one in spirit. Be happy to hear from any of them. Concentration of this nature acts as a demand. It produces a positive condition and that retards and breaks up the forces that must be built up if one is to secure manifestations.

The demand for these trumpets is becoming heavier as time passes, so if you wish one, our advice to you is to send for it soon.

* * * *

If there is any member of the Oriental Class who has not sent a dollar for the new "Table-top," "The World Next-door," I hope that member sends at once.

This volume is a companion-piece for "God's World."

As a student, you wish every assistance you may have in gaining a better understanding of the facts of spirit.

This means that we must consider God's nature precisely as we consider God's moral law. It is our right to inquire into the electron, into the relationship of ether and matter, but unless we make the inquiry how shall we expect to develop in understanding?

"The World Next-door" will give you food for thought about the electrons from which all ether, matter and energy spring. You can no more lay aside this "Table-top" as having been read than you can lay aside "God's World" and say truthfully, "I don't need to read that book any more; I know everything in it."

Besides this scientific viewpoint, explained in simple, understandable language, this volume contains some most intensely interesting descriptions of different spirit-spheres.

As a student, you NEED "The World Next-door."

* * * *

Perhaps before you receive this Lesson, you will have received my circulars relative to the new magazine, and I am counting on every member of the Oriental Class not only to send two dollars for a subscription, but to get friends to subscribe.

Let us give Spiritualism the publicity it merits and at the same time enjoy this magazine—a very big two dollars' worth, I assure you!

With my best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Lloyd Kenyon Jones

Questions and Answers

The Wm. T. Stead Memorial Center Home Study Course

So numerous and important are the questions, this introduction is short. There is this little Bible story for your contemplation. Turn to Luke 7, the 12th verse, and read that and the next three verses: "Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier; and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead, sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother."

The narrative does not say that this ended the funeral. It does not say that this young man, as a mortal, went home with his mother. There the narrative ends—and why?

Christ was a great medium—a voice medium, a healing medium and a materializing medium. The spirit of the son was materialized and the sorrowing mother knew then that there is no parting at death.

The first few of the following questions are asked collectively by our Trenton, N. J., friends:

Question: Can every person develop as a medium in some way?

Answer: Yes, in some form. All persons are instruments of the spirit-world; that is, every person is amenable to impressions and guidance from spirit. This instrumentality of itself is a form of mediumship. But development, followed out patiently, will bring some manifestations to any person. That person may become a medium for himself alone—and not be able to get messages for others. Messages may come symbolically. The mediumship may be in the form of memory of astral travels. All mediumship is not message-bearing or prophetic.

Question: How can animals, especially dogs, show such human love and understanding and not have souls?

Answer: All sentient life depends upon a soul. All animals have life everlasting; therefore, they have souls. Their soul-expression is not as pronounced as that of persons, and their development can not be as high, but there are some stages of progress in which animals seem to have more consideration, kindness and thoughtfulness than some persons. The human being, however, has a duty of greater development and this duty must be fulfilled.

Question: Does every spirit start to develop from the same plane after leaving the body?

Answer: No. Some spirits go to the higher spheres almost at once—because their development places them there. Others begin with the first spirit-sphere and develop slowly.

Question: If the sins of the fathers are visited onto the children unto the third and fourth generations, who must pay for these sins, the children or the fathers?

Answer: These sins were physical in nature—that is, disease taints. While the children suffer the

handicaps of unhealthy bodies, perhaps they develop more rapidly under such handicaps. But the parents, in spirit, must pay in repentance, and likely try to work out the debt by the most loving and patient guidance of those who suffer through their faults.

Question: Where will those persons be placed who live in so-called heathen lands, who know nothing about God or civilization?

Answer: Most of them will start in the first spirit-sphere, and many have to be reincarnated with better opportunities in the flesh before they can develop at all. Among those illiterate, savage folk sometimes are found more highly developed individuals.

Question: Have those in spirit ever told how many planes must be passed in spirit before one reaches the Divine Father?

Answer: In each living creature, the sense of life is the same. Every person has the same sense of individuality—and that is because all are reflections of the Divine Life. Through each of you, God is living His experience. He lives in each, feels what each feels. It is as though there were one great light, and countless mirrors reflecting that light. Therefore, it may be said that the soul of each is with God, and that development means growing nearer our souls. As we do this, we come into a better understanding of what God means. But God is not a person. God lives in all persons and in all things. They are of His Creation; that is, Willed into existence by Him.

Question: Who started all forms and splendor of the Christian church, when Christ was creedless, poor and lowly?

Answer: Man started and has perpetuated these forms and this splendor, and his own interpretation of Christ's teachings. Man has wandered far afield from the humble wholesomeness of the Teacher. Christ said that He brought not peace but the

sword, meaning that He foresaw the wrangling, the hatred, the materialism of this world. And just as churches have become fashion-shows altogether too frequently, and just as men and women take up their formal religion when they enter the churches and lay that pretense of religious sincerity aside when they leave their churches, so may we see why when this world became so engrossed in its passions and desire for material possessions, it came to a purging point. Today it is undergoing a cleansing—foretold in detail in Revelations.

Question: Are all persons gifted with mediumistic gifts?

Answer: All persons are gifted as instruments—and within each must be some slumbering response to mediumship.

Question: What comparison is there between Spiritualism and telepathy?

Answer: Telepathy is much the same as wireless. Thought, being an entity, sets up its own peculiar vibration. This vibration can be detected and interpreted quickly by those in spirit; if not by those on the lower planes, then certainly by those on the higher planes or spheres. It is spirit thought-transmission. Some human beings develop telepathy, but most of the telepathy we know is due to direct thought transmission to mortals by those in spirit. It is possible for direct telepathic transmission to occur between mortals—who may be gifted in that manner. It is similar in this respect to mediumship.

Question: Why is there so much jealousy between mediums?

Answer: This is a deplorable fact. It is a fact, for all that. Likely if mediums had the right support, were cared for by their flocks as ministers are by their congregations, they would not feel the woeful pinch for money. Again, persons who go to seances are crude enough to tell mediums how much better other mediums are. The medium is a sensitive—high-strung, easily upset, and these conditions cause anger, which expresses itself as jealousy. If the public would be more considerate of mediums, and if people would not forever run to this medium and that and mix their forces, perhaps mediums would be more calm and less given to voicing their adverse opinion of their fellow-sufferers.

Question: Why are spirits reincarnated?

Answer: To round out a special era of experience that could not be gained in spirit. This does not mean that earth-experience is the more important. It is not. But it differs from spirit-experience and helps in development. We live here under harsh conditions. We have a few years of this experience and return to spirit, and prepare for another short cycle of earth-experience. When each has received as much earth-experience as that person requires, reincarnation is no longer necessary. Many who have passed into spirit but recently, resent the idea of reincarnation just as much as any mortal could do. The fact that mortals so often are bitter against reincarnation, proves that the life they love is really not earth-life, but spirit-life.

Question: What and where is hell?

Answer: Hell, as taught by some churches, manifestly is an impossibility. The spirit-body is not affected by heat or cold, and is not subject to decomposition. It can not suffer physically. Hell, therefore, is regret—keen memory. It is a term used to signify sorrow for wrong that has been committed. Hell is nothing but a state of mind—but a mental hell should be more dreaded than a phys-

ical hell, because a physical hell would be contrary to Nature—to Law.

Question: Is a public executioner considered a murderer in the sight of God?

Answer: Only in this respect: He kills without premeditation or malice, but as a servant of a very bad system. The executioner is carrying out man's laws, but not God's Law. There must be the same regret felt by the executioner upon entering spirit as the murderer feels—but perhaps not the same terror that most murderers feel.

Question: Are persons born to criminal parents and raised in the same environments as responsible for their earthly lives as those born and raised among Christian surroundings?

Answer: There is not the same responsibility in this sense: Those born among criminal environments are ignorant. Those who should know better, are wilful. But responsibility reaches to every one, and both must work out their own progress. The wrongdoer who knows better, will suffer more mental pain.

Question—Why do we attract children as guides?

Answer—Often for their experience more than ours.

Question—As self-preservation is one expression of God's Law, how can we get away from fear?

Answer—By finding faith in the knowledge that God's Law will protect us as we depend upon it. We know that we shall be inspired to do the necessary things when contingencies arise.

Question—Can we be free moral agents and be governed by circumstance?

Answer—If circumstance of a nature that is not shaping our destinies, controls us, it is because we have not learned how to assert our rights as free moral agents. We have the opportunity of being much more free than we are.

Question—Why does a spirit often give only the first name?

Answer—This is not done always. Sometimes the spirit will say, "This is Uncle Fred," or "This is Grandpa Hughes." Names, being the very vortex of identification, come through the greatest effort—and often are hampered by over-anxiety on the part of a spirit.

Question—Which is the Lord's Day, the real Sabbath?

Answer—Every day is the Lord's Day. We can worship God in our labors. We should rest one day out of seven from a physiological viewpoint.

Question—Is guide and control the same?

Answer—No. Our guides may never control us. A medium may be controlled by a spirit not her guide.

Question—Some years ago, in a circle, my arm began to jerk and I felt I was losing consciousness. Was that a sign I may have been controlled?

Answer—Likely it was.

Question—About eighteen months ago, a medium told me of things that positively would happen in a year. They did not, although they were desired, honestly at the time.

Answer—The medium may have seen what looked probable at the time, and gave you the message as fact.

Question—Through these Teachings, I have learned how to call upon my guides, and it is astonishing how promptly I am answered. Is it true that we can not limit their power?

Answer—There is no limit to what the spirit-world can do for us, if we supply the conditions.

Question—Some time ago, while seated in the living room, the piano began to play, softly. Then my chair began to rock, and I felt very peaceful. Could this have been a manifestation?

Answer—Unquestionably it was, and a very beautiful one.

Question—Would it be likely that, upon developing mediumistic powers, a dog would come to me before I saw the spirits of people?

Answer—This may be true. Why not? If human affection were as true as the affection of dogs for man, it would more nearly approach the spiritual.

Question—What does the spirit-world say about the Virgin Mary?

Answer—That she was a very beautiful character, one fitted to be the mother of a spirit so noble as Christ.

Question—How can I more rapidly overcome my bad habits?

Answer—Growth rarely is rapid. Little by little, one may become better and stronger. By striving constantly to become stronger, your guides will help bring your strength.

Question—Do the spirits influence the weather?

Answer—The weather is regulated by natural law. That the spirits are good weather prophets is beyond question. But weather, like all else, being part of God's universe, is subject to God's will.

Question—When I am in a street car or a theatre, after I arise from a seat, I drop to my knees and feel dazed for a few moments. What is the reason?

Answer—Your guides have been drawing on you.

Question—One night, as I was in a great hurry, a great globe of light sprang up in front of me. I have never seen it since. What was it?

Answer—A light brought by some friend on the other side; perhaps an attempt at materialization or at a vision.

Question—One morning at seven, I heard a friend call me. She was several miles away. At seven that evening, she passed out. I am sure it was her voice.

Answer—It may have been. So near the change, she was likely more in spirit than in the flesh, and there are reasons for believing that many persons, in full health, and during their waking moments, enter spirit. They are in an abstracted mental condition, their friends would say, at such times.

Question—Often I dream of three shades of blue and seem to wear a blue robe and do missionary work. Often in my waking state, I see the same blue.

Answer—Blue is a favorite spirit color. Colors in spirit differ from our colors practically as a living thing differs from a dead one.

Question—I leave my enemies alone. I can not love them. I think God will do the rest.

Answer—It is not easy for mortals to love their enemies; it is reasonable and practicable for them to keep away from those enemies.

Question—Is it necessary to kneel in prayer?

Answer—We pray with our souls, not our bodies. A prayer is as forceful in one bodily posture as another. But—we must not overlook posture entirely. There are some interesting things relative to posture and different thought-processes that the Hindus demonstrated clearly.

Question—I have a dog that becomes very excited when there are knocks or other manifestations.

Answer—Animals often have "the open eye," or psychic vision; particularly dogs and horses.

Question—Often as I go through dark rooms, a light precedes me. I call it my guiding star.

Answer—It is. This light is given to you by some loved one—who is guiding and guarding you.

Question—Waking one night, I could feel a breath on my cheek. I tried to brush it away, but it came again.

Answer—Some loved one was very near you, and you were in the right condition to feel that dear one's presence.

Question—Some years ago, a spirit gave me a message to deliver to some one else. Why was it given to me?

Answer—Because you were psychic. Mediums often have messages given to them, the meaning of which they do not understand.

Question—What is the meaning of raps, heard in the night?

Answer—They may be answers to questions in your mind, or merely manifestations to let you know loved ones are near you.

Question—Why do people come to me to treat them for sickness, and what they believe to be witch-craft?

Answer—Get the witch-craft ideas out of their minds. Let us hope we are beyond the day and age of old Salem! Probably you have healing power.

Question—You state in "Healing Forces" that we shall be healed of ills that are curable. Will not God heal all ills?

Answer—If through an illness we are going to pass over, if the summons home has been issued, then we can not cure that sickness. But if mortals knew better, could supply the right conditions, they would pass over not through sickness, but without it.

Question—How do those in spirit pass to higher spheres, as they progress?

Answer—Progress brings up their vibration—changes the nature of the ethereal particles of the spirit-bodies so that they come into harmony with the ethereal conditions of the higher spheres.

Question—To be awakened suddenly as though some one had kissed me, is that a sign some spirit friend is near?

Answer—Undoubtedly. Many questions of this nature are asked. Therefore, let us remember that seeing lights, or forms, or hearing the voices or rappings, or experiencing these other manifestations that may be classed as psychic, are but evidence that we sense the presence of dear ones in spirit. We must remember that our loved ones are no nearer us than the dear ones of others are close to them,

even though they may never sense the presence of those loved ones. It is not necessary to answer all questions of a psychic nature, because they revert to the same thing, and we must come to an understanding of what is psychic. Try to get more into the philosophy, so that we shall have less sameness in these questions. And if you have asked a question about a manifestation and find it is not answered, it is only because this answer takes care of it. When such a question merits a separate answer, it will be given.

Question: Why is it, that one who has always feared death, loses that fear when a dear one dies?

Answer: The intimacy of the change of death has been brought home, and that dear one, knowing your fear, helps you to overcome it. You begin to sense the truth of spirit life more clearly. There should be no fear of death. Most people fear only the manner of their passing. They are afraid of suffering a thousand times more than they are afraid of death.

Question: Do people always suffer when they die, or are dying?

Answer: No. Many go to sleep and wake up in spirit. We have been told many times that the pain of an ulcerated tooth is as great as the greatest suffering at death, even in horrible deaths. A person may have been ground to shreds beneath the wheels of a train, but the sensory nerves have a limit of pain they can transmit to our minds. Usually a person who has met with so horrible an accident feels little or no pain. When the pain comes, death follows quickly.

Question: When Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His disciples that He would come again. If there is no judgment day, what did He mean?

Answer: Did He not come again? And did Christ not tell the felons on the crosses on either side of Him that they would be in heaven THAT DAY with Him? If progress is a fact, the judgment day is a myth. If natural law is a fact, then changes occur constantly, and are not stored up for one big change at some distant time. The judgment day idea is a heritage of people who "fear God." They say, "Ah, he was a God-fearing man." Give us more "God-loving" men, and we shall have a world more closely approaching the glories of heaven. Judgment day is distrust and fear of God. Truly, we are still as much in the dark ages as in the days when witches were burnt, and men were quartered for petty larceny. That is one way of looking at it, and here is another: We are moving from those darker days. Each day the world is learning something new. Science, which was a felony then, is tolerated now. But until mankind learns what Love of God means, and still talks about hell, the devil, evil spirits and the judgment day, we may refrain from becoming too boastful about the progressive world!

Question: Would it be wrong to sit one evening for slate-writing and the next evening for ouija messages?

Answer: Do not scramble your efforts to develop your psychic powers. Would it be foolish for a student in college to study theology every morning and medicine every afternoon? He would be neither a doctor nor a preacher, but a sad jumble of both!

Question: Should we write letters and enclose them in the Question envelopes?

Answer: Please do not. Write your letters separately, because THE QUESTIONS ARE LEFT IN THE ENVELOPES UNTIL THEY ARE ANSWERED; that is, until the time for answering them has arrived. Now and then we extract a remittance several weeks old. But if we scattered these questions throughout our correspondence, that would cause difficulties. If you find that letters of yours remain unanswered, do not blame us if they have been put into your question envelope. Our correspondence is heavy, and we must put it through certain methodical twists and turns, and the Questions are kept out of all our correspondence channels.

Question: Does an infidel continue to disbelieve after passing into spirit?

Answer: If he is a bright, alert person, he will soon see his error. If he is not, he must grow into the broader knowledge. The change of death will come not as a shock, but as a natural step, carrying with it ideas and viewpoints.

Question: In aiding the sick, do the prayers of the righteous avail more than the prayers of the wicked?

Answer: If we know which are the righteous, yes. But sometimes the long-visaged, frequent-praying persons have little righteousness, and the rough-and-ready have much. The prayer that comes from the heart, reaches God quickest. Which of us can say we can look into the hearts of our fellows?

Question: Are there spirits that impress one to do wrong?

Answer: If a person delights in wrong-thinking, through the law of attraction, that person will attract spirits of low development. They are evil only in degree as they have not learned. Learning and progressing, they escape the negative condition of wrong and no longer are evil.

Question: I would like to start in business. Would the spirit-world advise me which would be the best business?

Answer: As we learn to live nearer our guides, they impress us. We find the way. This really is better for most persons than direct seance-room advice, because that advice is an opinion, based on conditions as our spirit friends see them. But these conditions may change, and therefore the impression is the safest thing to follow.

Question: Is it possible to call to us loved ones in spirit?

Answer: As our thoughts of them are loving, as we feel that we would be happier with them, that attracts them. They come through love, and not through a command.

Question: Do we attract spirits whom we have never seen?

Answer: As we study and work, we attract to us spirits who love to help us because of our sincerity.

Question: I have seen a child, in spirit, who was strange to me, heard steps on the walk when no mortal was there, and heard water dropping when there was no water to drop. Explain.

Answer: At times we see into the astral. That child may have been a guide of yours, or connected to some dear friend. The other sounds are clair-audient, and likely would not be heard by others. The dropping water likely was symbolical, to tell you to have patience, that like the dropping water

your efforts gradually would wear away the rock of indifference or hardship.

Question: I heard a voice say, "You will get" in Bohemian and "over selfishness" in English.

Answer: Some loved one speaking both languages likely for identification, and telling you something that you should understand. If you are selfish, no further explanation is necessary. Sometimes we are generous in money but selfish in other ways.

Question: What is the meaning of seeing a white dove over a young man's head?

Answer: It signifies death—if not for the young man, then for some one near him.

Question: What would the spirit-world say about a widow, who does all the good she can, but occasionally gives herself away to a married man, though she is good to his wife?

Answer: The spirit-world would look upon it with disfavor.

Question: Do our loved ones see and hear everything one does?

Answer: Yes—everything.

Question: Is life a privilege for animals as well as men?

Answer: Life is a privilege for all things with life. It is God's Will that makes life, and therefore it is good to live.

Question: Is sickness always or never the result of sin?

Answer: Sickness is a breaking of natural law. Call it sin if you like. Ignorance is a better word.

Question: Is birth always a reincarnation or creation?

Answer: All births are not reincarnation. The spirit lived in spirit before living in the flesh, but we say that such a spirit has been without individual experience, never having lived the obstacles and pain and misunderstanding of the earth-life.

Question: With marked inequality in this world, how can that be consistent with justice if all things are from God?

Answer: Just as experience is different, and just as we progress from plane to plane, so are there differences between mortals. If this expression of life ended and encompassed all, that would be injustice, but out of suffering and humiliation comes progress. The negro, as he becomes educated, regrets his color. In spirit he will be as white as the whitest white man. As a negro he has learned some needed lesson. But not being born to endless darkness of skin, he can not take his regrets with him far into the spirit-realms.

Question: Do not severe earth-conditions hinder spiritual development?

Answer: They do not. "Hell on earth" may insure greater spiritual progress in spirit.

Question: Are all things determined for me by those in spirit?

Answer: No. Your destiny remains unchanged, but you have the selection of the routes through which you will reach your destiny. All the roads of your life lead in one eventual direction. God permits you to select the road you wish to travel.

Question: What do the Teachers say of healing by prayer and the laying on of hands?

Answer: They both belong to healing mediumship. The medium may have her own or his own method of producing the right conditions, but the source and the nature of the healing remain the same.

Question: What did Jesus mean when He said of a man born blind that he was blind not because he or his parents had sinned, but that the works of God might be made manifest to him?

Answer: That through this physical handicap, that man would learn more of the truths than though he had his physical vision.

Question: Is God not more than a Principle?

Answer: The term "principle" as used in defining God, or attempting to define Him, means more than our mortal conception of a principle. God is all-intelligence. "He" may be the wrong term to use in connection with the Creator. Note that the Bible says, "Our father which art in heaven." It may be a presumption on our part to ascribe sex distinction to the Maker.

Question: In the spirit-realms, are there seasons?

Answer: Not in the Homeland; probably to some degree in the first and second spheres, which are nearer earth conditions.

Question: What are spirit conditions like?

Answer: Get a copy of our new "Table-top," "The World Next-door." It will give you a very good idea.

Question: Do spirits breathe air as we do?

Answer: They breathe—the ethereal principles of air, and not precisely the same material air that we breathe.

Questions: Are clouds spirit-force?

Answer: Clouds are vapor caused by the evaporation of water. They are not of the nature of spirit.

Question: Do the spirit-spheres extend high—as high as the clouds?

Answer: The spirit-spheres are coincident. This is easier to say than to understand. It is explained in "The World Next-door," because its explanation involves an idea of the electron.

Question: Would large dark spots floating before my eyes indicate that I was starting to develop?

Answer: Not essentially. These may be caused by poor circulation that affects the retina and optic-nerve.

Question: Often I am sure I hear my daughter's voice. She was drowned a year ago. Do I imagine it?

Answer: Welcome these sounds. When you begin to doubt, they will leave you. If God is good enough to give you manifestations, be thankful for them.

Question: If reincarnation is a fact, how do we know that we are not harming one of our former kin when we harm a person?

Answer: We don't know. But be he a stranger, we harm ourselves more than we harm him.

Question: My mother, who was very psychic at one time, has been a Baptist for thirty years. She says Spiritualism is the devil's work, and at one time had a fight with his satanic majesty.

Answer: Be patient with her.

Question: A minister in this town preached a sermon recently saying that all Spiritualists are weak-minded.

Answer: What a depth of argument! And still, the poor fellow may not occupy the position in history occupied by Sir Wm. Crookes, Sir Oliver Lodge and a few more weak-minded individuals who have contributed wonderfully to the world's knowledge and educational progress. Pity such ignorance and arrogance.

Question: You state in the September lesson, that the Swami Vivekananda is an old spirit. I do not think that this is true. He was the same age as myself.

Answer: In earth-years, likely he was. He passed out but a few years ago, and had made America his home most of the time after coming to this country to attend the Congress of Religions in Boston, the year of the Chicago World's Fair. In referring to the age of a spirit, we refer to earth-experience, meaning that the Swami had lived on earth several times before. And upon his passing again into spirit a few years ago, he went to the sphere in which he belongs, which is one of the higher spheres, taking his place with the Teachers. If your home has been in the fifth sphere, you will return to that sphere when you pass through the change called death. The books written by the Swami were written on the old Hindu philosophy, and that philosophy is akin to Spiritualism. In fact, it was based on spiritualistic teachings received ages ago, and passed down from teacher to pupil, but not committed to books until the relatively recent past; that is, within the past few centuries.

Question: Will our dear ones love us in spirit as they did here?

Answer: Even more, because with their better understanding, they will not think of our faults.

Question: If our loved ones in spirit are around us, why can we not see and feel them?

Answer: Psychics see and feel them, and as one develops more of the psychic nature, through right living, right thought and constant progress, one will then come into touch with the higher vibrations. Our large "Table-Top," which sells for one dollar, entitled, "The World Next-door," will give you a clearer understanding of why we do not see and feel our spirit friends than we could give you in these lessons.

Question: Why do you not answer our questions every month? I have had questions answered but once since you started the class.

Answer: Sometimes many questions are similar, and we answer but one question of that kind usually. Again, some questions have been of a nature requiring a reading. For the most part, the questions have come in such large numbers, it will take a few months catching up. You would not enjoy or profit by an excessive number of questions and answers.

Question: Could an earth-bound spirit be a guide?

Answer: A spirit in the lower spirit-spheres, commonly called earth-bound, could be a guide, but would guide one more to give strength than to bring inspirations of a higher nature. A prize-fighter, for example, might have many such spirits guiding him, thinking only of his fist success and not much about the development of his spirit.

Question: Would a spirit in the first or second spheres know his or her soul-mate were that person on earth or in spirit?

Answer: Yes. The understanding of the attraction might not be clear, but there would be that strong attraction nevertheless.

Question: I have a friend in spirit who committed suicide, and at a seance one time he told him he was my guide. Could this be possible?

Answer: Yes. But all suicides are not bound to the lower spheres. If that spirit belonged to a higher sphere before his latest incarnation, he would return to that sphere no matter what his manner of passing might be. Most suicides are due to some form of breakdown—some mental disorder—and the person passing in that manner rarely is responsible for his or her act.

Question: I seem to get more raps when I am not sitting for development. Is it best to sit for the trumpet alone, or could one sit at the table and get trumpet manifestations, too?

Answer: During your sittings, your guides are working for other manifestations than the raps. If you were to develop that form of mediumship in which you would get answers to questions by raps, then they would become more frequent while you are sitting. If you wish to develop for the trumpet, sit for that only. Later, when you begin getting manifestations, you may develop other forms of mediumship. It is not a good idea to try to develop two or three types of mediumship in the beginning.

Question: I have had rheumatism for several years and am really a cripple. Would your class remember me on Friday evenings?

Answer: We shall be glad to, and ask that you devote from two to three hours each Friday evening, sitting quietly and contemplating the healing forces and the goodness and helpfulness of your friends in spirit. If there are several of you, why not meet regularly Friday evenings for healing? Sit just as you would for any development, singing every few minutes, but also discuss the healing forces and ask the physicians in spirit to help you. That opens the way for greater assistance from them. This is for "D. J."

Question: How do the Teachers account for the origin of man, and how do they account for the remarkable physiological and corresponding mental differences between the races if they refute the Darwinian theory of evolution?

Answer: Man came to earth as man—not as a jelly-fish or an animal, but as man. And man always will be man, the Darwinian theory notwithstanding. Remember this: Man, all life, all nature, originated in the same way; that is, as God's Command. Therefore between all things, there are relationships. Processes of waste and repair in man, are found duplicated in animals. And animals think—not as clearly as man, but still in terms of thought. The differences between races are differences in experience. You will find more older spirits among the Caucasian race than in the other races. This does not mean that the other races are less the children of God. But the very fact that, in spirit, there are no racial differences proves that racial divisions are for special purposes of earth-experience. And in stating that there are not different races in spirit, we mean in the third sphere and higher. Racial characteristics persist in the lower spheres to a considerable extent, and persons of other races from the higher spheres, who materialize,

come with their racial marks of distinction so as to be identified.

Question: Has Darwin ever come into the seance-room and spoken about his theory of evolution?

Answer: He has, and he says this: "I wrote what I believed, and had good reasons for writing it. I believe that my theory has helped people to think, and if it has done that, it has served its purpose. I see wherein I was wrong, but so do others who come from the earth-plane. We can do no better on earth than our best, and if our best contributes to thought, it has fitted into the great plan of progress." We quote Darwin's thought and not his language. Many speeches are made without our preserving a perfect record, through shorthand notes.

Question: Do discarnate spirits living in the same sphere have differences of opinion?

Answer: About many things, yes. Those on the same plane in a sphere are more nearly agreed. But all have their opinions because they have their own experience and their own gifts, and come to earth-folk with their opinions. Hence, we hear it stated frequently that the spirit-world contradicts itself. But all are agreed pretty well, from the third sphere on, as to the Law of Life.

Question: How do the oriental teachers convey the teachings in the seance-room, since they had no idea of English while on earth?

Answer: They speak in English. They have had centuries during which to study different languages. Some of them were English, having been reincarnated since their earlier incarnations in the Orient. We have records of many German or Swedish persons who have mastered English within a few years after passing to spirit and some have mastered other languages as well.

Question: If our mental achievements are to be attributed to spirits, why are talent and genius often coupled with immorality, while good people are devoid of talent?

Answer: All our thoughts do not come from other spirits. We of earth are guided—impressed—saved, when we are to be saved, from disaster. But our own responsibility, in spirit or in the flesh, must never be overlooked. Persons of talent may make money easily, and idle much of their time, thus falling into evil habits. Again, they may neglect their bodies, and develop sensual tendencies. In genius there is more or less tension, while persons of no special talents have evenly-balanced nerves. Their inclinations to go to excess are not so potent. Hence, upon the talented person rest duties that are not imposed on the others. To those to whom God gave seven talents, is charged a debt much greater than to those to whom God gave one or two talents—using the Biblical expression. Talent here was a comparison with money—a loan. The October Lesson went into that more fully.

Question: If our thoughts are impressed upon us by spirits, then we are blind instruments and our own personalities are of no intrinsic value.

Answer: No earth-person ever received any help from the spirit-world, outside of matters of his own destiny, unless he attracted that help through his thought and his efforts. If you idle and expect the spirit-world to do your thinking, you are going to be disappointed. Only work, effort, hard, earnest thinking and labor, will attract these inspirations. You are very much a free agent.

Question: When a person is in a faint, does the spirit experience anything, and if it does, why does it not remember?

Answer: The spirit may experience something—may be withdrawn from the physical body. But it is rarely that memories of experience in spirit are retained when one returns to mortal consciousness. If your entire memory, from the beginning, were clear to you in the flesh, you would not do your earth-duties as you should. You would see what came before and what will come after, and earth-life would have a different meaning to you.

Question: Why are there more women mediums than men mediums?

Answer: Men usually fear the opinions of others more than women, particularly in religious matters. Many men who have mediumistic talent, fight against it.

Question: If a reincarnated person enters spirit as a small child, does he come into possession as quickly of past knowledge as a grown-up would?

Answer: No. That child grows up in spirit—matures more quickly than in the flesh—and must grow into memory of the past and knowledge of the past. It comes as a gradual unfoldment. Many grown-ups also wait for years before they grow into that former memory, and especially where their lives have been dull and sensual. They can not be kept back from their former development, but it will not be restored as a shock. It must come as a growth. Ordinarily, an adult who had lived in the third sphere prior to reincarnation, would return there almost instantly upon passing through the change.

Question: During earth-life, does a spirit occupy the same body throughout that span of life or can another spirit displace it?

Answer: Only when a medium is controlled, does another spirit use the physical body of any person. The spirit may be out of its earth-body occasionally, but it is connected with that body. Some brain-injuries produce confusion of personality, but this is not a change of occupants of the earth-body.

Question: I am told that there is great strife among spirits to get back into earth-bodies. What is the reason?

Answer: Among the spirits on the lower spheres, often there is unrest, a longing to be back on earth and do things better. Hence the term, "earth-bound spirits." And in the higher spheres often there is a desire to be reincarnated to do some important work. This probably is where your impression came from.

Question: Must a person pass through death to enter the spirit spheres? Does a person have the same spirit-body in all the different spheres of spirit?

Answer: To enter spirit permanently, there must be death. The spirit-body changes its vibration as it enters higher spheres, or comes from higher to lower for any purpose. That is not like our change of death, but a spirit materializing for the first time may fear the experience as fully as a mortal fears death. The fear is that the built-up body will become fixed—can not be dropped again!

Question: I think most of us wish to live up to the Law of God as fully as possible, and escape ill health.

Answer: Mortals wish to live up to the Law, but it is only their lack of understanding that causes

them to transgress that law. Through that experience, they learn more about the Law and are more inclined to try to live in harmony with it. Thinking harsh thoughts about others may cause more ill-health than being exposed to a draft, or eating improperly.

Question: When spirits talk loud through the trumpets, does that use up the forces more rapidly than when they talk low?

Answer: It does use up the forces much more rapidly.

Question: Can a medium control guides so they will not get rough? I have seen many who talked rough and threw the medium about.

Answer: Mediums sometimes attract lower guides—rowdies from the lower spheres, and yet the mediums may be perfectly good persons. Some forces seem to be more inviting to this element of guides, but where the guiding spirits are of a high order, they control the others who would become rough.

Question: I hear my mother's voice, but do not see her. Do you think I may see her some time?

Answer: Clairvoyance usually goes with clair-audience, and likely you will have visions of your mother. These probably will come unexpectedly.

Question: What night do you think it is best for me to sit for development?

Answer: Select any night that is best suited to your work. If it is Wednesday, try to make it every Wednesday. If it is at eight o'clock Wednesday, make it at eight each Wednesday evening.

Question: What should I do to become a medium? I often hear and see the spirits when I am in bed alone, and one time a spirit came and stood beside me, but I became frightened and it vanished. Will it come again?

Answer: Being psychic, regularity in sitting for development is most important. You will overcome this fear, and then you will have more experiences.

Question: Why do I feel that I was not always poor?

Answer: This is a soul-memory of some incarnation when you were not poor.

Question: When you pray for something, does God send you what you pray for?

Answer: If that for which you pray is best for you, not according to your ideas but in harmony with God's limitless knowledge, you will get it if you earn it. But even if you try to earn what you should not have, it will not be given to you.

Question: I feel often as though something were pulling me. What is it?

Answer: Undoubtedly you are being drawn upon, perhaps for healing forces for others, or for your own development.

Question: We are taught that, in heaven, there will be no more parting. No more tears. Would not reincarnation indicate that there will be sorrow over there at parting?

Answer: Not sorrow, because those who remain in spirit know the mission, the purpose of the reincarnation, and that there will be a reunion some time. They look forward to guiding the reincarnated spirit and build for the day of another reunion.

Question: Is there not a possibility that some of my loved ones would be reincarnated when I enter spirit?

Answer: It is not likely. It could occur, but you would know the identity of the reincarnated spirit. You may feel sure that your higher guides will keep them there waiting for you, and progressing while they wait. The Law of Attraction has much to do with this phase of reincarnation.

Question: Which mother would the spirit of a child love, the one who was a mother in an earlier reincarnation or the last one?

Answer: The last incarnation, being the clearest in that child's mind, would have the stronger call for the mother still in the flesh. If a former mother were reincarnated, she could not know, during her earth-life, about her former children—could not attract those spirits with the same strength as the last mother.

Question: Is that part of the lesson signed "The Teachers," dictated by The Teachers?

Answer: Yes. It is taken down in shorthand. It is given not always by one or two, but by several, each taking up the subject where the other left off. Each of these Lessons has been prepared carefully by The Teachers, and put into language of our understanding, and therefore, each of these Lessons, while dictated by a number, is like one single composition.

Question: (For purposes of identification, we mark this Annie M. G. and condense the question) Following the passing out of Mrs. Vanderbilt, the medium, whom I did not know, I dreamed that I met her in a strange place and she told me something of great importance. Why should I be chosen for such a message? The place, I am told, corresponds with Etna, Me., where her ashes were buried.

Answer: We never know whom shall be chosen. In the astral through some attraction, you met this medium, then in spirit, and had this remarkable demonstration—a seance in the astral, as it might be called. But you should never wonder why you are chosen. God selects each of his children for different experiences, and for reasons that He alone may understand.

Question: Is meat-eating harmful to spiritual progress?

Answer: Nature—meaning God—designed some of man's teeth for meat-eating, and created certain food-producing animals, fish and fowl. It is evident, therefore, that in evolution man is supposed to pass through a meat-eating period, but the spirit-world looks forward to the time when none of the human race will eat meat. This will come with evolution, as a mark of advancement. But meat-eating is not condemned. It is simply regretted. That fact alone suggests that spiritual advancement would be greater were one a vegetarian.

Question: Are the plants and flowers of spirit-land the products of our own plants and flowers?

Answer: They are the spiritual part. Earth-plants bloom again in spirit, and from spirit came the life-principle in the seeds and bulbs. All life suggests spirit.

Question: Is it advisable for me to get a trumpet and sit for development?

Answer: If you feel so inclined, why not do so? Even if you should never get the voices, remember that this development aids you in many ways.

Question: I prayed to have a vision of Jesus and that evening I had a vision—the head with the crown. Did I imagine it?

Answer: If you put yourself in harmony with the purer and higher things, you could get such a vision. Why not? This does not mean that saw Christ, but a vision of Him—a picture of Him.

Question: Nearly one whole night I suffered as though my breath would leave my body, and am sure it was caused by a spirit who passed out in this manner. It happened at a time when a friend had met with an accident, as I learned later. (This question has been condensed considerably.)

Answer: You know now what a medium feels constantly. Each spirit coming through her forces for the first time, throws upon her the exact condition felt at passing. Also, it is likely that you were being drawn upon to help the one who suffered the accident. You had both sensations—of being drawn upon and feeling the condition of your spirit friend who passed out in agony.

Question: How do we know our own spirit guides impress us?

Answer: The Law of Attraction tells you that no other guides would care to impress you.

Question: If we get a test for a friend, do that friend's loved ones in spirit impress us, or does it come from our own guides?

Answer: Your own guides make it possible. The spirit-world works harmoniously, and if you can be made a message-bearer, your guides are pleased to have you selected.

Question: Would the spirit-physicians draw upon a person who is weak physically?

Answer: They do often, but they give back all they have drawn as soon as their work is done.

Question: Would it be likely that the spirit of a girl would be reincarnated as a baby sister? This baby has many of the characteristics of the young lady when she was in the flesh.

Answer: If the spirit longed to be back in the flesh with her earth-family, this would be possible. But it is more likely that the spirit is guiding the baby, and through the baby is giving evidence of her characteristics.

Question: How do you account for the statements contained in Matthew 1:18 to the last of that chapter? If this was not the immaculate conception what was it?

Answer: Without repeating this and the subsequent verses we now ask you to turn to St. Luke 24:1: "Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover." And now read the 48th, 49th and 50th verses of the same chapter: "And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake to them." Why should Joseph not understand after his vision when he was shown that Mary was to become a mother? Why should Mary refer to herself and her husband as Christ's parents? It was not to deceive one so filled with wisdom as Christ, surely. John the Baptist was conceived of the Holy Ghost, and yet his mother, Elizabeth, gave birth to him in the regular way. Ponder these facts, and remember that medical science today admits that a woman

may become a mother before "her husband (meaning any male) has known her" in the Biblical sense. It is all compatible with natural law.

Question: If I take money or property from a person and pay it back, have I righted the wrong?

Answer: You have balanced accounts. Many persons take money, property and privileges away from others and do so legally, but often what is legal, is still a breach of natural law. The person who secures credit and then does not pay his bill has done substantially the same thing that the thief has done. The procedure was different, but the debt remains. Is it worse to break into a man's house and take what is his, than it is to break into a man's confidence and rob him in that way?

Question: If a person is imprisoned for a wrong, does that balance accounts?

Answer: In some cases it does, and in others it does not. The state may punish a man for murder but that punishment has not paid back to the dependents of that murdered man, the support he would have brought to them. On the other hand, a man may serve several years for the theft of a few hundred dollars. He works every day in prison but is not paid for it. If the state forced him to work and pay back that money with interest, he would be less inclined to do any more thievery. But as it is, that man emerges from prison, figuring that the state has taken three or four years of his life for a small sum, and is embittered against human society.

Question: Is it wrong to work or seek recreation on Sunday?

Answer: Why should it be wrong to do something that rests you and restores your vitality? If we think of God on Sunday only, what sort of religion have we? Is not work done faithfully a prayer? Do we not worship God in our labors the same as on our knees? Sunday recreation is the only safety-valve that millions of people have.

Question: Was not Christ's statement concerning John, that he was the Elias that was to come, a personal confirmation on his part of the doctrine of reincarnation, and fully as important as his statement to Nicodemus?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Would one have to return to the flesh to balance errors made before—mistakes that were the cause of much sorrow and penitence?

Answer: Such mistakes may be repaired by the repentance and by efforts put forth in spirit, after crossing over.

Question: Does a controlling guide, guide any other person than the medium through whom he works?

Answer: Such guides are not personal guides, unless it be some of their own dear ones. We have received perhaps hundreds of letters from persons who say that Mr. Stead is one of their personal guides. Mr. Stead may speak in many seances—but not in all seances reported—and may come to many persons, to help them carry this truth to others. He is not Mrs. Cook's personal guide, but likely is a personal guide to his widow and daughter. With their facilities for travel, their ability to go great distances instantly, those in spirit can do their work in many ways, and through many persons, some of whom they may come to but once.

Question: Through Mrs. Cook's forces, will you give diagnoses?

Answer: The physicians, in the Healing Class, will tell you what is the trouble, and will send you to some physician if it is necessary, and through that physician will prescribe properly for you. But their prescriptions could not be filled even if the spirit physicians gave them to you. Where we hear from friends who suffer, we are always glad to ask the doctors in spirit to help, and we suggest that those wishing healing for themselves, members of the family or friends, sit in quiet concentration each Friday evening, when our Healing Class meets. If there are two or more, sit in the dark, or in a dim light, remain passive, and talk about the healing forces—invite them to help you—and talk about Spiritualism as a whole. Sing or play at intervals. That will help a great deal. The class meets from 8:30 to 11:00, Central time.

Question: In a seance recently, some spirits acted shamefully, pinching the women and causing undue hilarity. I think that is terrible for something so sacred as a seance.

Answer: Instead of regarding such things as terrible, why not be student enough to try to ferret out the reason? In a seance, at times the forces become heavy. The mortals present grow torpid mentally. The pitch, or key, of the forces lowers, and it is difficult for those on the spirit-side to come through. Those mortals present have become positive. They have insulated themselves. Something must be done hurriedly to save the seance, and it is necessary to liven up the situation. It is imperative that the persons present be brought out of themselves. At such times, if singing would be of no value, some spirit "cuts up capers," and thereby clears the heavy mental atmosphere. If this were not done, the seance would fail. Those in spirit are not sensual. They see us dressed and undressed, and in many situations that we might call embarrassing. However, they see only God's children, and guide us out of our follies as well as in our pensive, better moments. Suppose a spirit does materialize, and pinch and slap mildly? What harm has been done? The evil is with the mortals who think evil of it. That view is not harming the spirit-world. It simply is proving the evil-mindedness of the mortal mind that thinks evil. Students can not afford to pass snap-judgment on the spirit-world. Why do they not make an honest effort to get at the real purpose back of all manifestations? Until then, they are not students, but hypersensitive mortals who have set up a false set of ideals, which they term morals.

Question: Are life, spirit and soul the same?

Answer: The soul operates through a spirit-body, or a material-body, but soul and spirit are used often to mean the same thing—sentient, that is, comprehending life. To vegetable life, there is also spirit, but not soul—not individual understanding.

Question: Why is it that of two babies, one lives on earth to old age and the other passes right into spirit?

Answer: One required a long material experience, and the other mere contact again with the earth-world.

Question: Is God a spirit, or is God a natural Law?

Answer: God is spirit, but not "a spirit." God is the Great Creative Force, and not a person. Natural Law, like nature, matter, ether, are but expressions of God's power.

Question: Why were we put on earth?

Answer: For a type of experience that we could not gain in spirit. This experience is essential in our development.

Question: Why is it that nobody has seen God?

Answer: We see only that which God has created, and in everything we see the works of God. Have you bought the "Table-top" volume, "The World Next-door?" Send one dollar for it. That volume will give you more food for thought relative to God, nature, natural law, energy, matter, ether and the spirit-spheres, than you ever have had before.

Question: What kind of medium is Mrs. Cook?

Answer: She is a voice medium. In her "Table-top" volume, "How I Discovered My Mediumship," she tells her different types of mediumship, and explains how and when they came to her.

Question: Will there ever be a universal language in this world? Would that not help solve many of the differences of the world?

Answer: Differences in language have increased the opportunities for differences of experience. When the world has learned to think and act right, it will make no difference how many languages there may be, because the thought-force back of every language is the same, and the soul's interpretation of the meaning in words, is independent of language.

Question: Has any gift to mankind escaped being abused?

Answer: All gifts have been abused.

Question: How long has The Stead Center been in existence?

Answer: The Wm. T. Stead Memorial Center was incorporated under the Laws of Illinois, in 1913. Mrs Cook's public work as a medium dates back eighteen years.

Question: Are not humanity's ailments traceable to venereal diseases?

Answer: Mostly. The two principal venereal diseases are related, and they have, as first cousins, the conditions out of which spring leprosy and tuberculosis. These tendencies comprise the heredity of mankind. Our natures are not inherited, but our physical constitutions are inherited or, at least, absorbed by association. In spirit, we no longer carry these taints.

Question: Why do spirits lie?

Answer: The only lying spirits are those in the flesh. If you operate a ouija, and get wrong messages, why take for granted that your own mediumship is above reproach? Why blame the spirits? If you get messages in a seance-room that are beyond your understanding, why charge your own ignorance to the spirits? If you go into Spiritualism assuming that spirits lie, you would better keep out of it, because you are never getting the right understanding of anything that is said.

Question: Why must we go to a medium to learn the identity of our guides?

Answer: If you were mediumistic, this would not be necessary.

Question: Why in a voice seance, do most voices sound alike? Why do some speak loudly and others very low?

Answer: A thousand whispers would sound much alike. Let the spirits sing, and you will note the differ-

ences in their voices. Some spirits may speak independently and very loud; others through the trumpets and low. For instance, you go to a seance-room a stranger. The forces you supply must be blended with the forces from the medium. Not accustomed to the conditions of that seance-room, your forces are not strong. The voice comes through very low. Or, the spirit coming to you, is not accustomed to those voices, and the voice will be low. If all the voices spoke as clearly as the human voice, the forces would be used up very rapidly.

Question: Are spirit-bodies like ours?

Answer: Like yours in every way, except they are made of finer materials. Your spirit-body will look like you—only of finer material, and more beautiful.

Question: Why do spirits not like to talk about their passing out?

Answer: It recalls old sorrows. It saddens them usually. On the other hand, some spirits go into details about their passing.

Question: Can our guides tell us when we shall pass out?

Answer: Perhaps not your immediate guides. Your higher guides can tell. Under certain conditions, they will do so. Usually they do not, because it would make a mortal very unhappy.

Question: Can one person sit for psychic development successfully?

Answer: Yes, one may sit alone. Usually it is better to have two or three.

Question: Often, in my sleep, I go to strange countries, and later in telling others, they recognize the places.

Answer: Your spirit goes there in your sleep, and you remember what has been seen.

Question: Sometimes, my hand-writing changes so, in a single letter, it looks as though two had done the writing.

Answer: Some of your loved ones have been controlling your hand. You are writing partly on your own account, and partly through control of your hand, meaning automatically.

Question: Should any one sit in a seance-room on Sunday?

Answer: Is it wicked to talk to your loved ones whenever the opportunity presents itself? Which is the better thing, to sit in a church and listen to a sermon based on the preacher's theories, or talk to your dear ones who have passed through the change called death?

Question: Is telepathy a form of spiritualism?

Answer: Telepathy is a spiritual method of thought-transmission. The word is made up of two Greek words: Tele, afar off, and pathos, feeling; literally, feeling something from afar.

Question: Is it true that those who have been "soul-sleepers" here may remain in a state of somnolence for centuries in spirit?

Answer: For months or even years, perhaps, but not for centuries.

Question: Would our thoughts here help us form the kinds of homes we shall have hereafter?

Answer: The thoughts that come to you of your future home are not building that home, except as you think in purity. They are impressions of the

home you will have. But pure thoughts, like good deeds and honest efforts, help you build your spirit-home.

Question: Doing our best here, shall we be with our soulmates when we pass into spirit?

Answer: If you have not been with your real mate in this world, that nearest of all loved ones likely will be the first to greet you when you enter spirit.

Question: Would not mercy be shown to an atheist who loved nature and all noble things?

Answer: Such persons are atheists because they resent the organized church. At heart, they are pure, so what else matters?

TEN SELF-EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

The following questions are to aid you in your study. Do not send your answers to us. Try to answer each question before looking up the reference in the index in the back part of "God's World." The first number refers to the paragraph and the second number to the page.

1. Why should no one fear God? 44-11.
2. Why does the person who goes to many different seances, gain less and less satisfaction? 58-29.
3. What gifts of humanity compare with mediumship? 2-33; 3-33.
4. Name some evidence that it is the spirit of man that discerns. 10-49.
5. How should death be regarded? 36-55.
6. Why do we sometimes feel superior to nature? 14-73.
7. Are there earthly reasons to spur us on to do better? 20-91.
8. What is known as a band of guides? 26-97.
9. Does all experience concern destiny? 61-105.
10. Does proclamation develop us? 30-113; 31-113.

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